(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Tobacco Board is promoting export of both unmanufactured tobacco and tobacco products through participation in fairs and exhibitions and securing market access tor Indian produce in major tobacco importing countries.

Tariff rate quota on Indian tobacco by USA

1676. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India exports unmanufactured tobacco to USA and other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof in 2006-07 and in the current financial year, so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that USA imposes Tariff Rate Quota on Indian unmanufactured tobacco;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has raised this matter with the appropriate US agency; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure fairness to Indian farmers by removing all restrictions from the USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Exports of Indian unmanufactured tobacco during 2006-07 and 2007-08 are given below:

Year	Quantity (in metric tons)	Value (Rupees in lakhs)
2006-07	152618	124104.91
2007-08 (April-June, 2007)	39368	33965.59

Details of imports by major importing countries of Indian unmanufactured tobacco are given below:

(Quantity in metric tons: value in Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No	Country	2006-07		2007-08 (April to June)	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	2	34		5	6
1	Belgium	19244	19832.21	2217	2334.30
2	France	3229	1690.21	691	253.03
3	Germany	7789	7965.74	3377	3866.81
4	Netherlands	5118	5110.41	1440	1628.05
5	United Kingdom	7405	6869.27	874	937.04
6	Poland	3515	2851.06	532	549.67
7	Russia	20663	13890.42	4927	3642.72
8	Ukraine	3746	2739.5	1004	609.88

1	2	3	4	5	6
9	Yemen	7509	2756.89	1540	744.56
10	DPR Korea	4920	2389.57	3340	2084.85
11	Nepal	4835	3420.82	1690	1288.5
12	Phillippines	9163	9388.47	2170	2029.89
13	Singapore	5050	4893.20	1132	878.84
14	Vietnam	4013	4175.70	2307	2210.04
15	Egypt	8028	6113.32	951	838.77
16	United States of America	4793	2523.12	699	326.38

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) was introduced by the United States of America (USA) in 1995 to safeguard the interests of domestic growers by restricting the import of foreign tobacco.

(e) Yes, Sir. The Government has been repeatedly raising this matter at appropriate forum.

(f) Securing a separate quota for Indian FCV tobacco in the USA is an ongoing process. The Govemment continues to bring up the issue in bilateral discussion on trade with the US Government, Trade Policy Review of USA and other forums for a favourable resolution.

Foreign and domestic investment in retail trade

†1677. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of companies granted permission for carrying out retail trade in the country;

(b) the details of foreign capital investment and domestic capital investment in the retail trade; and

(c) the State-wise details of number of persons provided with jobs after putting a ban on the entry of corporate companies in the retail business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) As per extant policy Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not permitted in Retail trade except in the Single Brand product retailing. The list of foreign companies who have been granted approval for investment under the Single Brand product retailing is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) As per data available with Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, foreign investment approved for Single Brand Retail from February, 2006 to May, 2007 was US$ 3.31 million. Information on domestic capital investment in the retail trade is not centrally maintained.

(c) No centralised data on employment in the retail sector is maintained.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.